

Infant Mortality

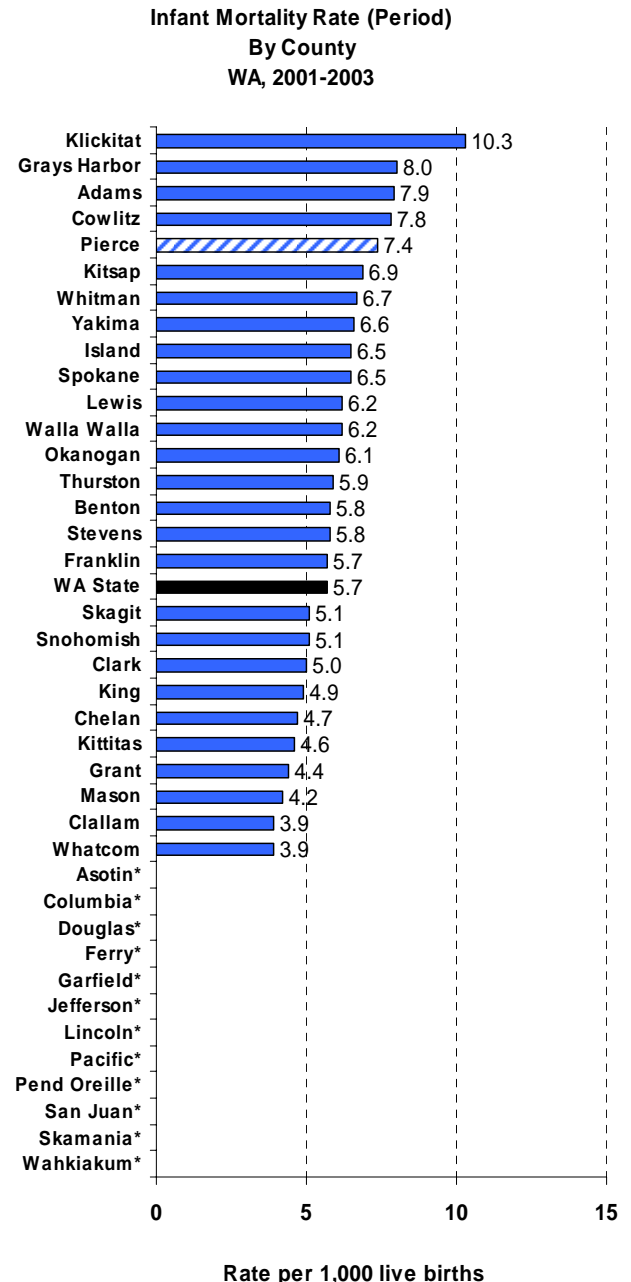
Publicly funded services to address Infant Mortality are described in First Step, Nutrition Services, Genetic Counseling, Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Testing, and Immunization Program CHILD Profile

Key Findings:


- In 2003, 447 Washington State infants died in their first year of life. The infant mortality rate (IMR) for 2003 was 5.6 per 1,000 live births, compared to a preliminary 2003 national rate of 7.0 per 1,000 live births.^{1,2,3,4}
- Washington's IMR declined significantly, from 7.8 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 5.2 in 2000. Over the last three years, however, the infant mortality rate increased. This trend is consistent with the national pattern.^{1,2,4}
- The three leading causes of infant death in Washington State in 2003 were Congenital Malformations (26.0%), Short Gestation/Low Birth Weight (13.6%), and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) (10.7%).¹
- Infant mortality rates were highest for infants whose mothers were Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. High rates were also seen in teen mothers, mothers age forty and over, male infants, and infants whose mothers were on welfare (TANF).^{1,5}
- The Healthy People 2010 objective is to reduce the infant mortality rate to no more than 4.5 per 1,000 live births. Washington has not yet met this objective.³

Definition: Infant mortality is the death of a child under one year of age. These deaths are often divided into two groupings: *Neonatal* mortality (death of an infant within the first 27 days of life) and *Postneonatal* mortality (death of an infant of 28-364 days of age).

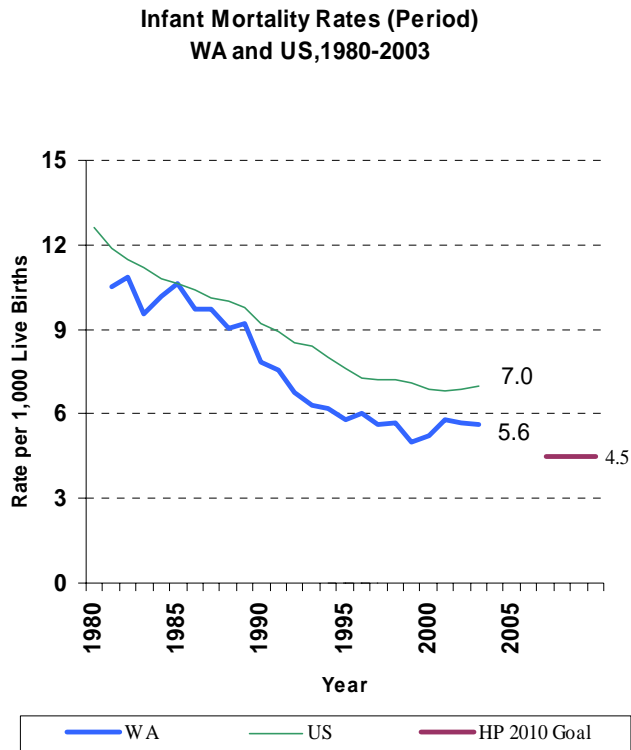
County^{1,2,a,b}



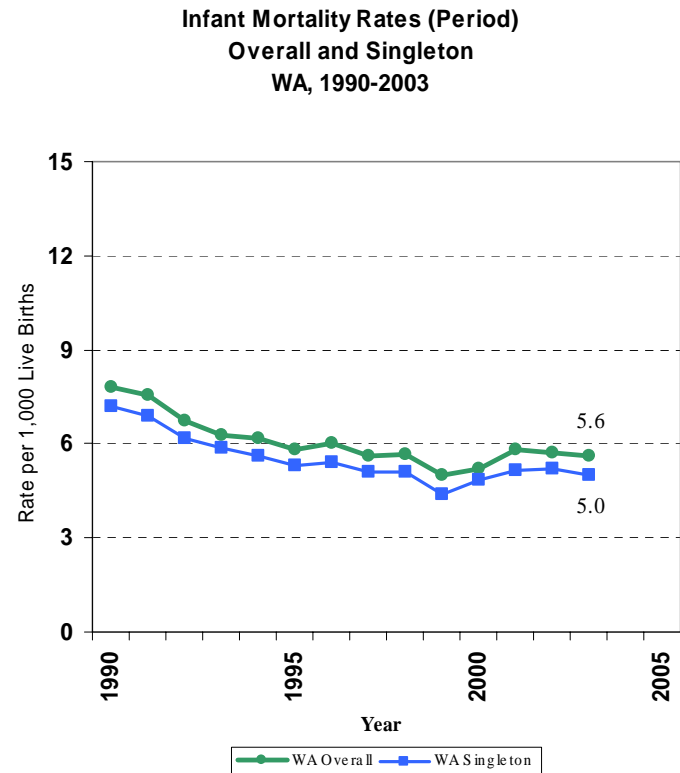
*County rates not calculated if less than 5 events

 Significantly different from state based on 95% confidence intervals

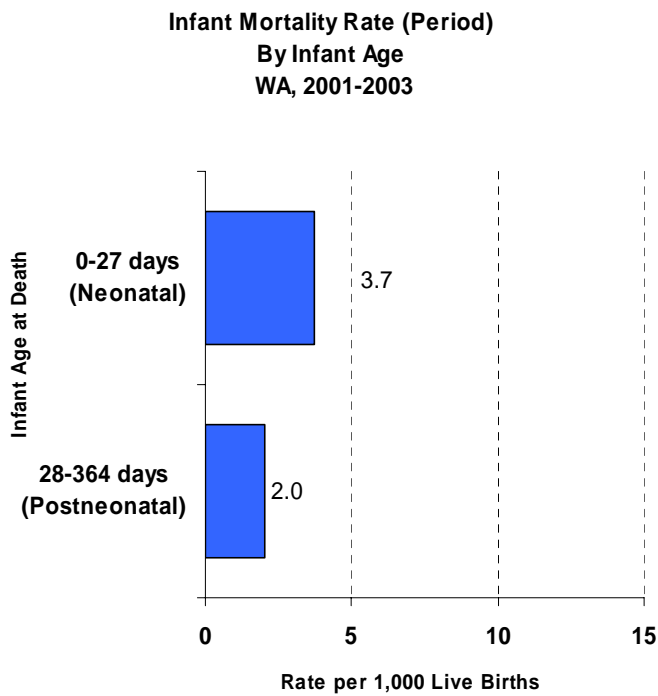
Trend^{1,2,4,b}



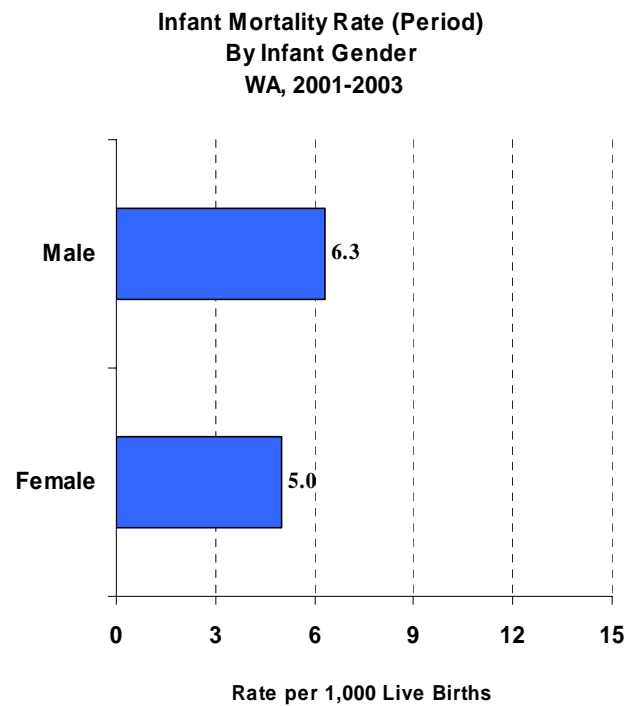
Singleton Infant Mortality^{1,2,4,b}



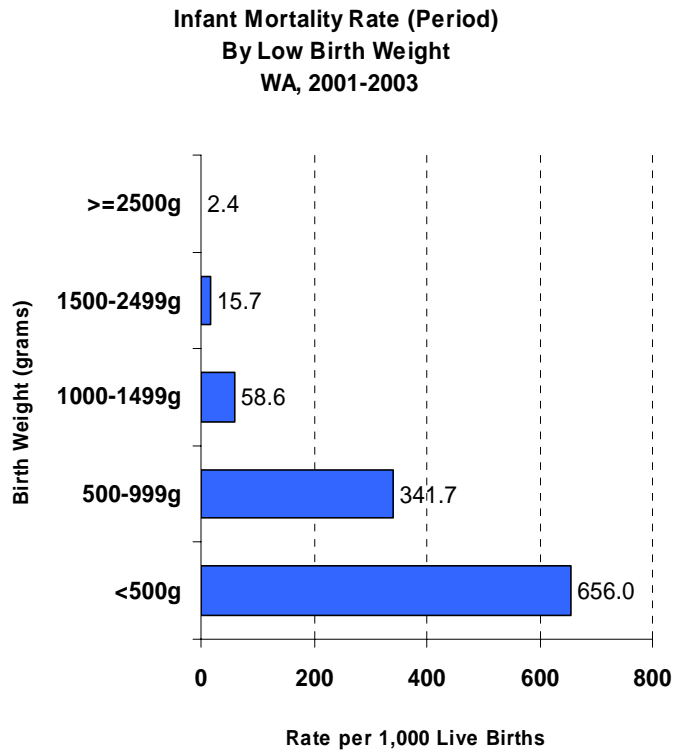
Age^{1,2,b}



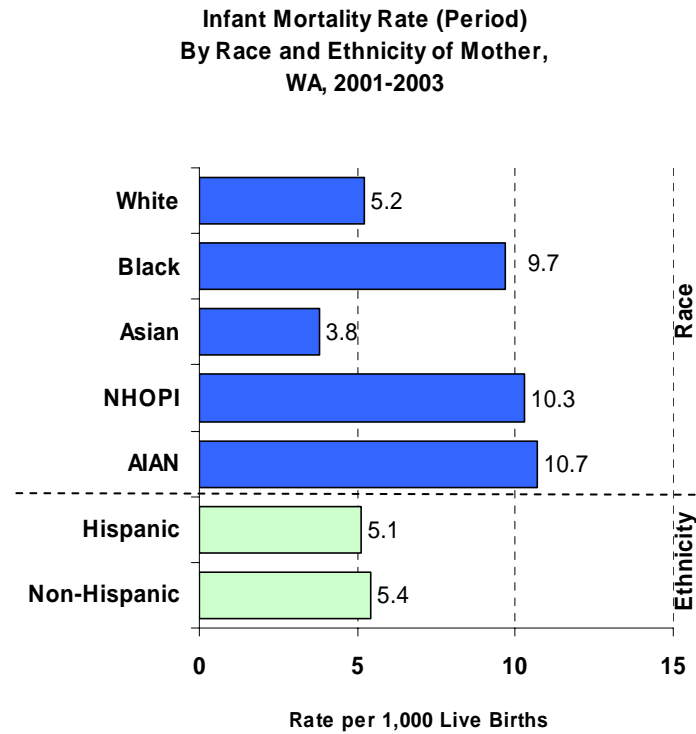
Infant Gender^{1,2,b}



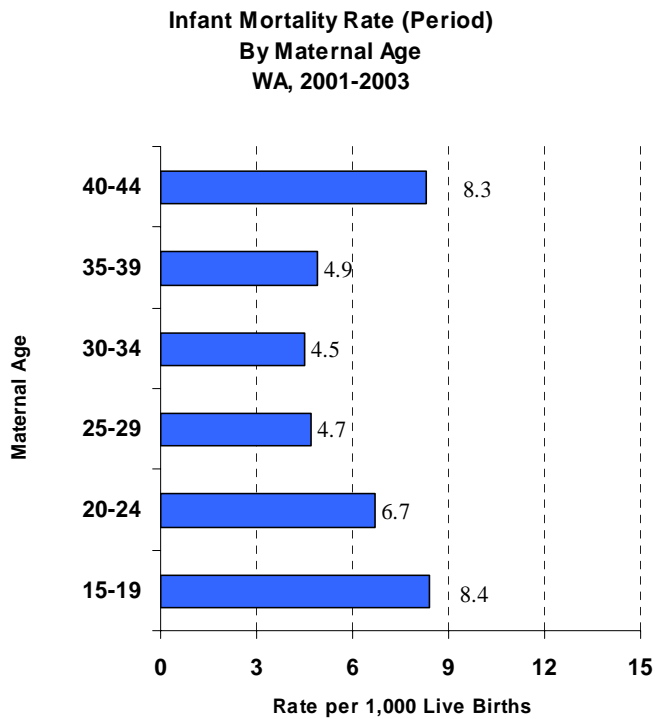
Birth Weight^{1,2,b}



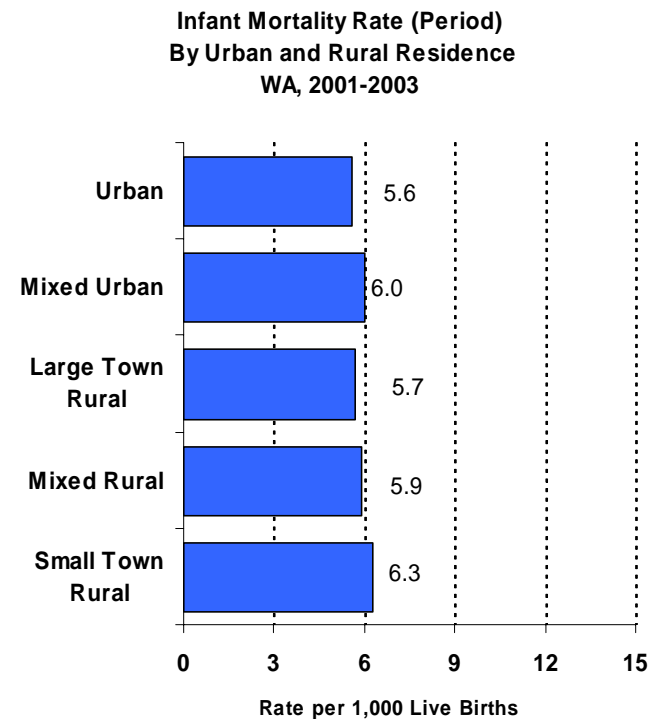
Race and Ethnicity^{1,2,b,d,e,f}



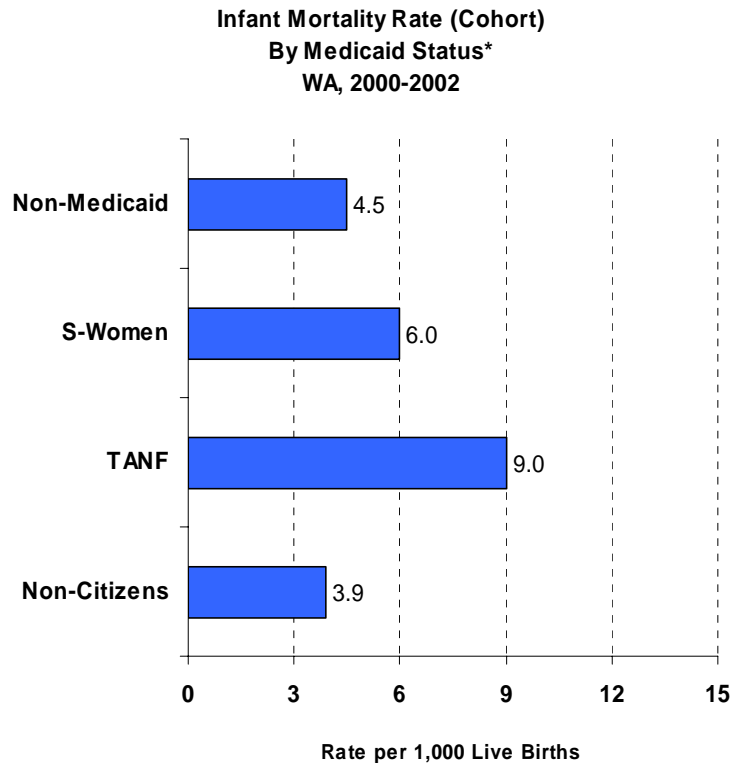
Mother's Age^{1,2,b}



Rural and Urban Residence^{6,b,g}



Medicaid Status^{5,c}



* Medicaid women received maternity care paid for by Medicaid. They are divided into three major subgroups (from highest to lowest socioeconomic status): **S-Women** - those women who are citizens and eligible to receive Medicaid because they are pregnant and have incomes at or below 185% FPL, **TANF** - those women who are very low income (generally < 50% FPL) and receive cash assistance (TANF) in addition to Medicaid, and **Non-Citizens** - those women who are not citizens and are eligible to receive Medicaid because they are pregnant and have incomes at or below 185% FPL. Non-citizens are not eligible for TANF although their incomes are often lower than women on TANF. All three Medicaid groups have incomes below most Non-Medicaid women.

Data Sources

1. Washington State Linked birth and death certificate data: Vital Statistics 2003, Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, March 2005.
2. Analysis Software: Public Health – Seattle & King County, Epidemiology, Planning & Evaluation, Software for Public Health Assessment (VistaPHw), (1991-).
3. Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health, US Department of Health and Human Services, Washington DC. US Government Printing Office, 2000.
4. National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15 (Preliminary 2003 Data), March 14, 2005. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53_15.pdf
5. Cawthon L, Infant Mortality (Infant Deaths per 1000 live births) by Medicaid Eligibility for Births 2000-2002. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, First Steps Database, 5/10/05.
6. Washington State Department of Health, Office of Community and Rural Health, November 2005. <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/ocrh/>

Endnotes

- a. Significance was determined based on 95% Confidence Intervals.
- b. Period Infant Mortality Rates use infant deaths in a given year as the numerator and infant births in the same year as the denominator.
- c. Cohort Infant Mortality Rates look at the experience of a birth cohort. The denominator includes all births in a specified year (cohort) and the numerator is the deaths that occurred to that cohort in the first year of life.
- d. In 2003 a new birth certificate form was implemented, allowing for multiple race reporting. It is not known how reporting differences may have affected infant mortality rates by race/ethnicity.
- e. NHOPI – Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- f. AIAN – American Indian/Alaska Native
- g. Rural urban differences are based on county level RUCA codes calculated using 2000 census data (see Technical Notes for description of RUCA codes)